

MINUTES
Town of North
August 14, 2006
North Town Hall

Mayor Jeffcoat called the regular meeting of Council to order at 7:00 p.m. and declared a quorum. Present were Council members Drew, Binyard, Lane and Gleaton were in attendance. Also in attendance were Mark Fallaw, Chief of Police, and Carrie Windham, Town Clerk.

Mayor Jeffcoat welcomed visitors.

The Minutes from the July 10, 2006 meeting were approved.

Special Presentations:

Marie Laird from the North Community School Adult Education Program spoke. This program has provided services to residents of Orangeburg County for 13 years. Their current building is inadequate, there are water leaks and it is not handicap accessible. They had to turn down an opportunity to get 40 students from First Stop Job Corp due to these conditions. The program has inquired of Heyward Livingston of the Orangeburg County Council the possibility of building new facilities. This program would propose to expand this building to be a Community Center where scrap booking, 4H, girl scouts, boy scouts, dance classes, home school organizations, and after school programs can meet. Possibly even a fitness facility. This will open up some new jobs for the Town of North as well. Ms. Laird's only request to the Town of North is for support in this endeavor. She asked of the council about their backing this program when it goes before County Council for funding? Mayor Jeffcoat and Councilwoman Lane both indicated affirmative support. Councilwoman Lane inquired as to the planned location. Ms. Laird noted a vacant lot that would be a good possibility. A comment was made regarding the drainage easement on that particular piece of property.

Highway 321 Report:

Mayor Jeffcoat gave an update on the Highway 321 project. He indicated that this construction should help the problem of runoff water once the storm drains are in place.

Water/Sewer Report:

Mr. Jeffcoat presented the water sewer report for July 2006, (copy attached).

Police Report:

Chief Fallaw recognized our Reserve Officers who volunteer a minimum of 20 hours per month. Our newest Reserve Officer, Spencer Combs, started in April and will graduate in October. Officer Combs introduced himself. Chief Fallaw also recognized Sgt. Herlong for an award he received from SC Dept of Public Safety and MADD for being a DUI Hero (agency size 10 and under). Sgt. Herlong is certified to operate the batmobile, had 18 DUI arrests in 2005, speaks in public forums in classrooms, and has strong initiatives for this cause. Chief Fallaw also announced Officer Bird's promotion to Private Officer 1st Class.

Chief Fallaw reviewed the North Police report (copy attached). He gave an update on the ABWIK as an ongoing investigation. He noted that our Town's law enforcement were out on the road at the time of this incident and able to be flagged down to help with this emergency.

Old Business:

- o Mayor Jeffcoat explained that the auditors should have the final audit report to us this week.
- o Mayor Jeffcoat explained that the Water / Sewer software and equipment purchase will be postponed until the new fiscal year. We are in contact with the computer expert at Zeus to help us get this system set up.

New Business:

- o Discussion was made on the ordinance change to modify the fiscal budget year from July 1 through June 30 to bring the Town in line with the county and state. Councilwoman Lane made a motion to accept this ordinance change as stated, Councilwoman Binyard seconded the motion, and upon vote it passed unanimously. It is noted that the Town will have a short budget year this year (10 months) to get current by July 1.

- Mayor Jeffcoat introduced the proposed budget for the upcoming short year. Discussion about the budget was had. There was some concern regarding the publicity of the budget prior to this council meeting. Mayor Jeffcoat noted that notice was placed 48 hours in advance and a public hearing on the budget was held at 1:30. Zilla Hinton made the suggestion that a marquis sign might better advertisement for any such hearings. It was decided that the vote on the budget is postponed until September 11, 2006 council meeting.
- Mayor Jeffcoat proposed elimination of the cleaning service for the Town Hall building, and having current employees Willie Funchess and Freddy Martino absorb the duties. If this action required said employees overtime payments, it will still be more economical than the current cleaning service. Mr. Funchess and Mr. Martino are agreeable to this. Councilwoman Lane made a motion to accept this budget change. Councilwoman Binyard seconded the motion. Upon vote, this change passed unanimously.

Jeffcoat reported the Community of Character Trait for August is Punctuality.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Jeffcoat announced the opening of a new restaurant in town, Restaurant Rowe, and encouraged patronization of this business.

Jeffcoat discussed the athletic program for the Town. We have three practice fields which haven't been used in one or more years. Jim Tom Oliver lives in North and is willing to work with us to establish an athletic program. To start with, a poll of students needs to be conducted to determine interest in such a project.

Jeffcoat advised Council that Radium has been detected in one well on Creek Mill Road. We are working with DHEC to get it corrected. It is possible to get a grant to cover the costs of correction.

Jeffcoat acknowledged his wife, Barbara, for her help with the books while bookkeeping duties were not up to date.

Jeffcoat announced he attended the back to school bash that Jerusalem Baptist Church held.

Jeffcoat announced that he attended the open house for Morgan Lane Apartments. Weather decreased attendance for the open house. Seven units are occupied leaving thirteen units available.

Jeffcoat announced that Water / Sewer employees Dale Weatherford and Willie Funchess have been certified to handle asbestos water and sewer lines. Dale is working on his certification for wastewater. It was also noted that Freddie Martino is doing a great job with the Town's Public Works.

Jeffcoat announced that Dr. Sanders will be operating in North by October 1. They are working on obtaining a location suitable for his practice. He is looking at the old dental office. It is noted that Dr. Dillard is staying.

Jeffcoat advised Council that insurance coverage has been increased on the canteen and town hall, and that coverage has been extended to miscellaneous equipment owned by the town.

There being no further business, Mayor Jeffcoat adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Reverend Wright closed the meeting in prayer.

The next Council meeting will be held on Monday, September 11, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Carrie Windham

APPROVED: AUGUST 14, 2006 MINUTES

Mayor Earl Jeffocat: _____

Council Members:

Paul Drew: _____

Rose Binyard: _____

Harriet Lane: _____

Aubrey Gleaton: _____